Annual Report 2004-2005

Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development

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(1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Honourable John Harvard
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House,
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

This report marks another year for the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development in its legislated and unique role of being an advisory body for the Manitoba government in accordance with *The Sustainable Development Act.*

This year the Manitoba Round Table was pleased to award scholarships amounting to $5,000 to two students in the province actively researching sustainable development encompassing social, environmental and economic balance. One research project explores green roofing systems and green building materials at the graduate level, while the other is a study of sustainable development principles with a specific focus on public participation, education and environmental conservation. These studies will help Manitoba move towards its goal of sustainability and ensure that future generations are actively involved in this movement.

I am pleased to present Your Honour with the 2004-2005 Annual Report for the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development.

Sincerely,

Stan Struthers

Honourable Stan Struthers
Chair

INTRODUCTION

The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development was established on proclamation of ***The Sustainable Development Act*** on July 1, 1998. This is the ***2004-2005 Annual Report*** of the Manitoba Round Table as required by *Section 4* of the *Act*. Through the 2003-2004 term, the changing role of the Manitoba Round Table was realized. With emerging priorities of government, the possibility of a new role and membership for the Round Table was considered. Thus, 2004-2005 was a transition period for the Manitoba Round Table. As a result of the evolving role of the group, new members for the Manitoba Round Table were sought out and those selected were nominated and appointed by the spring of 2005.

MANITOBA ROUND TABLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development is an advisory body to the government of Manitoba. Their role is to advise and support decision-makers in making responsible resource, land use, environmental, social and economic development decisions. The Manitoba Round Table is an integral component of the province's Sustainable Development Strategy.

Members of the Manitoba Round Table are appointed by the Minister of Conservation through Order-in-Council. Bringing a broad range of experience and technical expertise, and representing regions and sectors of the province, Manitoba Round Table members contribute to sound and informed implementation of sustainable development strategies in every aspect of public administration. To reflect government's commitment to sustainable development and to emphasize the cross-departmental responsibilities in implementation, *The Sustainable Development Act* requires a minimum of four cabinet ministers to serve as members of the Manitoba Round Table. During 2004-2005, there were 11 members of the Manitoba Round Table, with the Minister of Conservation as Chair.

DUTIES OF THE MANITOBA ROUND TABLE

The duties of the Manitoba Round Table, as legislated by *The Sustainable Development Act* are:

- creating awareness and understanding of sustainable development;
- cooperating with public-sector organizations, private industry, non-government organizations and the public to share knowledge and experience;
- reviewing the principles and guidelines of sustainable development;
- advising on development and review of the Sustainable Development Strategy;
- advising on development and review of sustainability indicators;
- at the request of the minister, reviewing existing or proposed policy, legislation, regulations or programs for consistency with the principles and guidelines, and reporting to the minister with recommendations; and
- other tasks and activities related to sustainable development, at the request of the minister.

POWERS OF THE MANITOBA ROUND TABLE

The Manitoba Round Table may:

- establish and direct subcommittees to undertake various tasks;
- make its own rules of procedure, including procedures of committees;
- identify, promote and encourage projects and activities that exemplify sustainable development practices;
- initiate, sponsor and support seminars, workshops, and conferences related to sustainable development;
- conduct studies and investigations, and advise and make recommendations to the minister on matters related to sustainable development, other than matters involving the gathering of evidence to determine whether or not specific persons or bodies are complying with the provisions of the act and the regulations;
- publish reports and other materials; and
- do all things necessary to the effective carrying out of its duties under *The Sustainable Development Act*.

MEMBERS 2004-2005

Honourable Stan Struthers, Chair, Minister of Conservation

Mr. Carl Braun, Ketaskinow Technical Field Works, Thompson

Mr. Gord Collis, Simplot Canada Ltd., Brandon

Mr. Richard Gaywish, West Region Economic Development Corporation, Winnipeg

Mr. Ed Huebert, Executive Vice-President, Mining Association of Manitoba, Winnipeg

Honourable Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Ms. Bev Leadbeater, Rock Lake Community Round Table, Crystal City

Honourable Ron Lemieux, Minister of Transportation and Government Services

Ms Rebecca Nepinak, Pine Creek First Nation

Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Health, (Minister of Energy, Science and Technology, April 1, 2004 - Oct 12, 2004)

Honourable Rosann Wowchuk, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

The Sustainable Development Scholarship, established in 1996, annually awards a scholarship to a post-secondary student in Manitoba pursuing studies and undertaking research that embraces the spirit and principles of sustainable development. It is open to students in any field of study offered at an approved Manitoba post-secondary institution.

The total scholarship amount of $5,000 is awarded to cover tuition, books, fees and other education-related expenses.

The 2004-2005 scholarship was awarded to two Manitoba students. A sum of $4,000 was awarded to Celeste Brunel of the University of Manitoba for her graduate research on green roofing systems and green materials for interior design. A sum of $1,000 was awarded to Rachel Horwat for her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg on Sustainable Development Principles, specifically focused on public participation, education and environmental conservation. Winners are chosen by an independent evaluation committee.

Celeste Brunel is a graduate student at the University of Manitoba, enrolled in a Masters degree program in Interior Design. She is researching sustainable design and construction with a focus on green roofing systems and on material selections for healthy interior environments. To further her educational experience, she spent an academic term at a German University in Düsseldorf.

Rachel Horwat is an undergraduate student at the University of Winnipeg aspiring towards a double major in Environmental Studies and Geography. She is interested in sustainable development principles and is particularly focused on citizen participation and public education. She currently volunteers with Climate Change Connection in Winnipeg and hopes to work on environmental education and greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the future. She has also focused her coursework and research on environmental conservation principles and natural resource management.

Appendix

The following principles and guidelines of sustainable development have been adopted by government under *The Sustainable Development Act.*

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Principles:

Integration of Environmental and Economic Decisions

1(1) Economic decisions should adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects.

1(2) Environmental and health initiatives should adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Stewardship

2(1) The economy, the environment, human health and social well-being should be managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations.

2(2) Manitobans are caretakers of the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being for the benefit of present and future generations.

2(3) Today's decisions are to be balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Shared Responsibility and Understanding

3(1) Manitobans should acknowledge responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being, with each being accountable for decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open cooperation.

3(2) Manitobans share a common economic, physical and social environment.

3(3) Manitobans should understand and respect differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations.

3(4) Manitobans should consider the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical regions and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including Aboriginal peoples, to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Prevention

4 Manitobans should anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects of decisions and actions, having particular careful regard to decisions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being.

Conservation and Enhancement

5 Manitobans should

(a) maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;

(b) harvest renewable resources on a sustainable yield basis;

(c) make wise and efficient use of renewable and non-renewable resources; and

(d) enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystem.

Rehabilitation and Reclamation

6 Manitobans should

(a) endeavour to repair damage to or degradation of the environment; and

(b) consider the need for rehabilitation and reclamation in future decisions and actions.

Global Responsibility

7 Manitobans should think globally when acting locally, recognizing that there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nations, and working cooperatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and

social factors in decision-making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

Guidelines:

Efficient Use of Resources - which means

(a) encouraging and facilitating development and application of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and

(b) employing full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision makers.

Public Participation - which means

(a) establishing forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in decision-making processes by Manitobans;

(b) endeavouring to provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by decisions and actions; and

(c) striving to achieve consensus amongst citizens with regard to decisions affecting them.

Access to Information - which means

(a) encouraging and facilitating the improvement and refinement of economic, environmental, human health and social information; and

(b) promoting the opportunity for equal and timely access to information by all Manitobans.

Integrated Decision Making and Planning - which means

encouraging and facilitating decision making and planning processes that are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral and which incorporate an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Waste Minimization and Substitution - which means

(a) encouraging and promoting the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and

(b) reducing, reusing, recycling and recovering the products of society.

Research and Innovation - which means

encouraging and assisting the researching, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further our economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.